

IDAHO SUPREME COURT



Justices	Robyn Brody	Roger Burdick	John Stegner	Gregory Moeller	G. Richard Bevan
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Strong Republican	Mild Republican	Mild Republican
Opinion Partners					
Dissenting Minority					
Determining Majority					
Lone Dissenter	✓				

SUMMARY

- ▶ Number of justices: **5**
- ▶ Number of cases: **140**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **90.0% (126)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice G. Richard Bevan (29)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **0**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **8**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice John Stegner (5)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **14**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice John Stegner (8)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners/dissenting minority

In 2020, the Idaho Supreme Court decided five cases by split decision. Justices Burdick and Stegner allied in the dissent in two of those cases, which was more frequently than any other two justices on the court.

Determining majority

The three justices who allied in the majority most frequently on the Idaho Supreme Court were justices Bevan, Brody, and Moeller. Justices Bevan and Brody

were in the majority in four of the five cases decided by split decision.

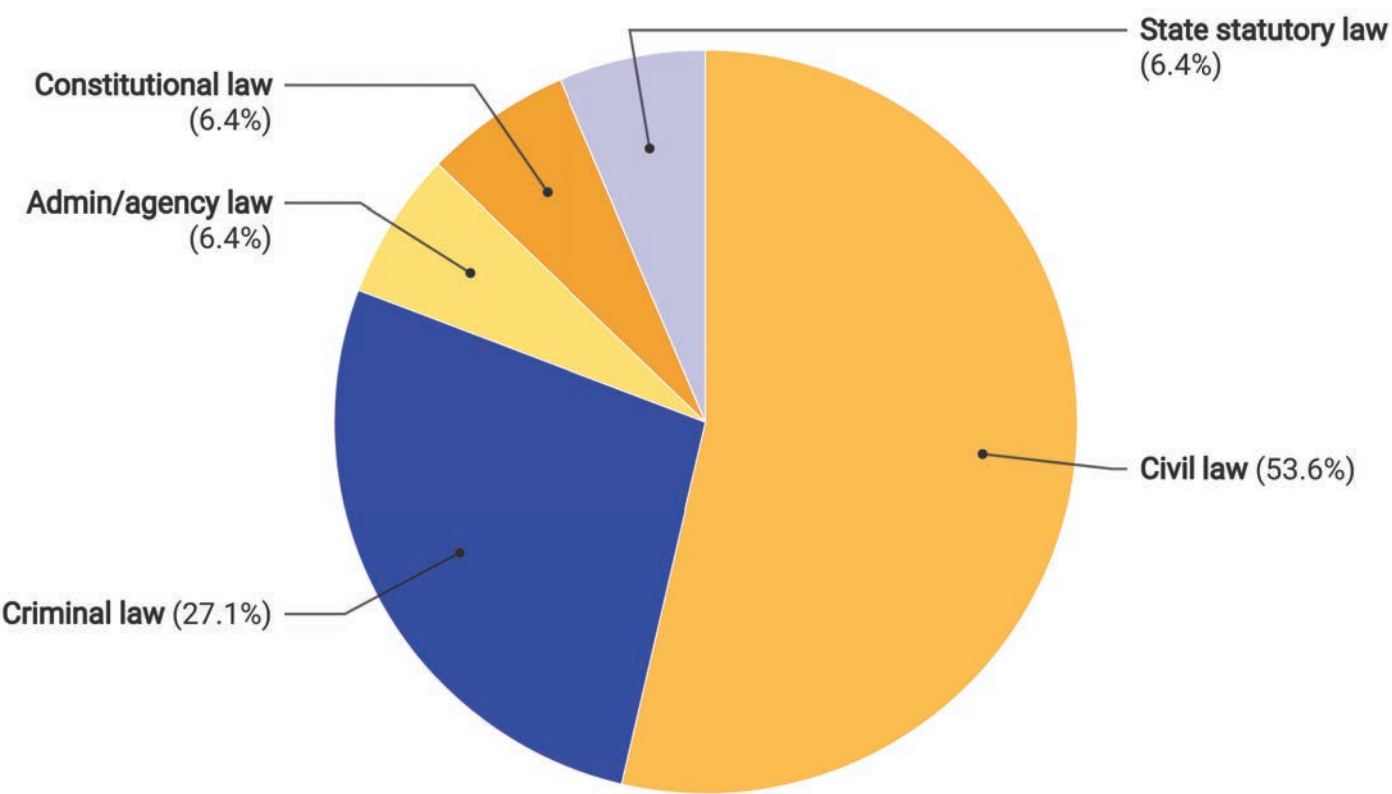
Lone dissenter

There was a lone dissenter in nine cases decided by the Idaho Supreme Court in 2020. Justice Stegner dissented alone four times, which was more frequently than any other justice on the court. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Stegner recorded a Strong Republican Confidence Score. Justice Stegner was the only justice on the court who recorded a Strong Republican Confidence Score.

COURT JURISDICTION

The 1890 Idaho Constitution gives the Idaho Supreme Court the authority to hear appeals of the final rulings of the district courts, as well as from orders from the Public Utilities Commission, Industrial Accident Commission, and the Idaho Industrial Commission. The court has original jurisdiction to hear cases against the state and to issue writs of review, mandamus, prohibition, and habeas corpus, and all writs necessary for complete exercise of its appellate jurisdiction. Parties may make a further appeal to the supreme court from the Idaho Court of Appeals, or the court may choose to review a decision of the court of appeals.

Case types decided by Idaho Supreme Court, 2020



The most common case category heard by the Idaho Supreme Court in 2020 was civil law. Of the 140 cases it heard, 75 were civil cases, or 53.6 percent of its total caseload for the year. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were criminal law. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The Idaho Supreme Court heard 38 criminal cases in 2020, or 27.1 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were tied between administrative law cases, constitutional law, and state statutory law. The Idaho Supreme Court heard nine cases in each category in 2020, or 6.4 percent of its total caseload for the year per category. An administrative law case first proceeds from an administrative law court or involves the enforcement of an administrative regulation. A constitutional case is one that involves the violation of a right expressly protected by the Constitution of the United States. A state statutory case involves the violation or enforcement of a state statute.